

# Hermans Tortoise Care Sheet



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Congratulations on your new pet. Hermans tortoises stay fairly small, rarely growing to more than eight inches. They are a hardy, friendly tortoise. Hermans enjoy digging and are able to climb. Males are smaller than females and have a longer thinner tail. They become tame quickly when handled gently, and in a short time will be able to recognize you. Young children need to be supervised when handling a tortoise. With proper care you can expect your Hermans tortoise to live fifty years or more.

## HOUSING-----

The cage for a hermans tortoise should be big enough for it to move about freely. As an adult your tortoise will need a forty gallon terrarium. The best bedding for a hermans tortoise is RZilla's Terrarium Liner. It helps maintain a low humidity and is easy to clean. You will need a food dish with low sides and a shallow water bowl large enough and designed for your tortoise to get in and out of. Your tortoise will need a cave or hide box. This should be on the cool side of the cage.

## HEATING AND LIGHT-----

The daytime temperature of the habitat should be between 75-90 degrees fahrenheit and as low as 65 degrees fahrenheit at night. They will need a daytime basking area kept at 95 degrees fahrenheit. You can provide this with Exo-Terra's reptile lamps and heat bulbs. Hermans tortoises require twelve to fourteen hours of UVB light for proper health and growth. R-Zilla's Tropical Series UVB fixture enables your tortoise to make vitamin D3 which allows it to use the calcium in its food. Without proper lighting and heat they can get sick and could possibly die. UVB lights need to be replaced every six to eight months. One of our pet care specialists will be able to assist you in selecting the correct lighting for your pet.

## DIET-----

Hermans tortoises should be fed a mix of grasses and vegetables daily. They need a high fiber, high calcium, low protein diet. A well balance tortoise diet such as Zoomed's Grassland Tortoise food, or Natural Zone's tortoise bites can supply up to 50% of your tortoises' daily requirement. Chop greens to a manageable size. Greek tortoises can eat a variety of dark leafy greens like: kale, collards, mustard greens, some red leaf lettuce and romaine, dandelion greens, spinach, green beans, zucchini, frozen mixed vegetables, Bermuda grass and Timothy hay. Baby and young tortoises need to have calcium and vitamin supplements added to their food everyday. Adults will need these one to two times a week. Never feed iceberg lettuce and only limited amounts of fruits. The high sugar content of fruit can give your tortoise diarrhea. Be sure to provide fresh, clean, non-chlorinated water at all times.

## CLEANING-----

Make a daily check for fecal matter and left over food. Rotten food can grow mold and bacteria quickly which in turn can cause illness in your tortoise. The water and food bowl should be washed with hot water daily. Use a brush to scrub off old food or algae growth in the water dish. Every week, take out the carpet and wash it in warm soapy water. Rinse thoroughly and allow to dry completely before returning to the habitat. We recommend having two cage carpets to make cleaning easier. The glass walls and floor can be cleaned with a reptile cage cleaner like Natural Chemistry's Healthy Habitat. Always wash your hands before and after handling your pet tortoise.

## HEALTH-----

Your tortoise will need a warm water bath one to two times a week to expel waste. Water should just be mid way between the top and bottom of the shell. When you take your tortoise out of its habitat to visit you should check that it seems active and alert and notice if it has been eating. Check the condition of the shell and skin. Check that eyes are clear. There should be no discharge from the eyes, nose or mouth, no labored breathing or sneezing. When you clean the cage, check that droppings are normal. If your pet does not seem well you should call the veterinarian right away.

## FERTILITY-----

Consult one of our pet care specialists.

## CHECKLIST-----

- |                                                                                |                                                                 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> a large as possible habitat                           | <input type="checkbox"/> hiding cave or box                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> cage carpet                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> basking light appropriate for the cage |
| <input type="checkbox"/> shallow water and food dishes                         | <input type="checkbox"/> UVB lighting                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> heat light or ceramic heater appropriate for the cage | <input type="checkbox"/> thermometer                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> humidity gage                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> calcium / vitamin supplements          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> good quality tortoise food                            |                                                                 |